



# ***CITY COUNCIL***

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## ***Committee of the Whole***

**Monday, January 29, 2007**  
**Agenda**

*To Begin Immediately Following the State of the City Address*

- I. African American Museum**
- II. Allocation of Unprogrammed CDBG Funds**
- III. Charter Amendment**
- IV. Ordinance Review**
  - Repealing Handicap Parking Sign Installation and Renewal Fee

## Memo

To: Adam Mukerji, Manager  
From: Neil Nemeth, CD Specialist  
Cc: Dennis Witwer, Secretary  
Date: 01/22/07  
Re: Response to 01/22/07 email - Re-programmed CDBG funds

If the \$2,000,000 is treated like an extra CDBG "entitlement" then:

- \$300,000 is the maximum public services cap amount (15% of \$2,000,000).
- \$400,000 is the maximum administration cap amount (20% of \$2,000,000).
- \$594,000 is the slum and blight cap amount (30% of (\$2,000,000 minus administration))

### \$500,000 Re-lighting of the City of Reading

- If qualified, possible eligibility/fundability: Low mod area / Public facilities and improvements

### \$139,000 RBI OND Community Organizers

### \$15,000 Neighborhood Resource Guide

- If qualified, possible eligibility/fundability: Low mod limited clientele / Public services

### \$20,000 CARE

- If qualified, possible eligibility/fundability: Low mod limited clientele / Public services

### \$25,000 RAFT

- If qualified, possible eligibility/fundability: Low mod limited clientele / Public services

### \$80,000 NEAR

- If qualified, possible eligibility/fundability: Low mod limited clientele / Public services

### \$100,000 CPHD Artifact's Bank Façade

- If qualified, possible eligibility/fundability: Slum and blight area / Historic preservation

### \$190,000 City Park

- If qualified, possible eligibility/fundability: Low mod area / Public facilities and improvements

### \$750,000 Redevelopment Recreational Feature

- You said the eligibility/fundability would be acquisition and low/mod housing.

### \$150,000 East Reading Pool Acquisition

- If qualified, possible eligibility/fundability: Low mod area / Public facilities and improvements

\$20,000 Fair Housing

- If qualified, possible eligibility/fundability: CDBG administration

\$ ? Pagoda Improvements

- If qualified, possible eligibility/fundability: Slum and blight spot basis - Historic Preservation type of improvements / improvements that remove a threat to the public health in general.

## CDBG PROPOSED ALLOCATION BY CATEGORY

23-Jan-07

If the \$2,000,000 is treated like an extra CDBG "entitlement" then:

\$300,000 is the maximum public services cap amount (15% of \$2,000,000).

\$400,000 is the maximum administration cap amount (20% of \$2,000,000).

\$594,000 is the slum and blight cap amount (30% of (\$2,000,000 minus administration))

### *Public Services:*

RBI OND Community

Organizers \$ 139,000

Neighborhood Resource Guide \$ 15,000

CARE \$ 20,000

RAFT \$ 25,000

NEAR \$ 80,000

**Total** \$ 279,000 \$ 300,000

### *Administration:*

Fair Housing \$ 20,000

**Total** \$ 20,000 \$ 400,000

### *Slum and Blight:*

CPHD Artifact's Bank Façade \$ 100,000 \$ 580,000

### *Public Facilities:*

Re-lighting of the City of

Reading \$ 500,000

City Park Playground \$ 190,000

East Reading Pool Acquisition \$ 150,000

**Total** \$ 840,000 n/a

### *Low/Mod Housing:*

Redevelopment Project \$ 750,000

**Total** \$ 750,000 n/a

**GRAND TOTAL** \$ 1,989,000

source: Community Development

**CITY OF READING  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PROGRAM  
FY 2006 - FY 2010**

PROJECT	YEAR	PROJ. COST	GENERAL	DEBT	FEDERAL			
			REVENUES	FINANCING	GRANTS	STATE	ENTERPRISE	OTHER
FIRE REPLACE RESCUE 1	2006	\$450,000		\$450,000				
PW TRAFFIC ENGINEERING LIQUID FUEL FUND PAVING	2006	\$750,000			\$750,000			
IT DISASTER RECOVERY	2006	\$1,250,000		\$1,250,000				
IT Uninterrupted Power Source	2006	\$67,000		\$67,000				
POLICE REPLACE DIGITAL VOICE RECORDER	2006	\$65,000		\$0				
IT PURCHASE GIS SYSTEM FOR CITYWIDE	2006	\$3,000,000		\$750,000	\$150,000		\$2,100,000	
PW ENGINEERING CATCH BASINS	2006	\$50,000					\$50,000	
FIRE BUILD OAKBROOK FIRE STATION	2006	\$1,500,000		\$1,500,000				
POLICE RANGE CLASSROOM ADDITION	2006	\$52,000		\$52,000				
PW ENGINEERING CATCH BASIN MUSEUM ROAD	2006	\$54,000					\$54,000	
PW PUBLIC PROPERTY CITY HALL ROOF	2006	\$200,000		\$200,000				
PW RECREATION EAST READING POOL RENOVATION	2006	\$250,000		\$250,000				
Penn Street Bridge Lighting Repairs	2006	\$87,000		\$87,000				
PW HIGHWAYS SALT BRINE EQUIPMENT	2006	\$50,000		\$50,000				
LIBRARY NORTHWEST BRANCH REPAIRS	2007	\$60,000		\$60,000				
PW TRAFFIC ENGINEERING FORCE IN CURB	2006	\$70,000						\$70,000
POLICE EVIDENCE ROOM EXPANSION	2006	\$200,000		\$100,000				\$100,000
PW PUBLIC PROPERTY STADIUM HIGH MAST REPLACEMENT	2006	\$152,000		\$152,000				
PW ENGINEERING SCHLEGEL PARK POOL STORMWATER	2006	\$86,000					\$86,000	
PW RECREATION BAER PARK PLAYGROUND RENOVATION	2006	\$100,000		\$50,000	\$50,000			
PW RECREATION ESSICK PLAYGROUND RENOVATION	2006	\$100,000		\$50,000	\$50,000			
CD DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE	2006	\$150,000			\$150,000			
TOTAL		\$8,743,000	\$0	\$5,068,000	\$400,000	\$750,000	\$2,290,000	\$170,000

[illegible]

## Suggested Charter Revisions

*Last revision January 2007*

1. Residency requirement for Department Heads, Managing Director and City Clerk & other management employees – Include definition of residence (Section 706)
2. Definition of issues which *cannot* be put to referendum.  
*The Third Class City Code restricts initiative and referendum on tax levies, appropriations, Eminent domain, ordinances relating to exercise of the police powers of the city to preserve public peace, health, morals and safety, construction of sewers and keeping the streets in passable condition, or any ordinance required by state law or a state agency. Under Home Rule, restrictions must be included in the Charter itself.*
3. Remove Recall Section, as it has been ruled unconstitutional by the Supreme Court (Section 1110)
4. Compensation packages of Mayor and Auditor – *salaries should be independent not tied together* (Section 307 and 502)
5. Amend to provide the Mayor with 5 days rather than 10 to approve, veto or take no action on ordinances (Section 221)
6. Increase Taxes – require a super majority vote to increase any of the City's taxes.
7. Allow Public Hearings for Capital and General Fund Budgets to be held on the same night (Section 905 and 912)
8. Change Presentation of Budget from November 1 – 90 days – *to* October 1 – 120 days (Section 902)
9. Distinguish responsibilities for Mayor and Managing Director (Section 308 and

406)

10. Remove or amend limitation imposed on tax collection (Section 907)

11 More at large representation on City Council (Section 201)

12. Remove Mayor's ability to terminate departmental employees/directors, falling under the Managing Director or Department Director's control. (remove Section 308 m and reword 603 b)

13. Initiative and Referendum amendment to remove the suspension of an ordinance before voter referendum and reduce the time limit (currently 2 years) for adopting or modifying an ordinance adopted pursuant to initiative.(Section 1109)

14. Neutrality of Solicitor and/or independent Solicitor representing Mayor, Council and Auditor (Section 801)

15. Addition of Solicitors in the Law Department (section 801)

16. Define interaction between Managing Director and City Council (Section 406)

17. Define Mayor's responsibility, interaction, communication with Council (Section 308)

18. Add all City Departments to Charter (Article VII)

19. List qualifications for Human Resources Director (Section 705)

20. Improve bidding incentives for local firms (Section 915 d)



21. Section 914 Independent Audit – define role of Council (Section 914)
22. Increase time for City Clerk to certify Initiative and Referendum petitions by 5 days or make City's certification period 20 business days. (Section 1105)
24. Council Meetings – amend to allow Council to cancel one of the two required meetings, in the event the President of Council determines that a second meeting is not needed (Section 212)
25. Amend to define malfeasance and nonfeasance
26. Add specific responsibilities/duties for the City Auditor

### **Allentown Home Rule Charter (initially adopted 1997) Listing of Amendments Proposed/Adopted**

Since the adoption of the Charter, the following questions have been proposed as amendments. The adopted amendments have been incorporated into the Charter.

**DELETION OF THE LAND VALUE TAX:** Shall Section 807, Home Rule Charter, Revenue, be amended to delete Sections C, E and F, in effect deleting the Property Development Incentive Taxation System, commonly known as the Land Value Tax. (Defeated May 20, 1997 - 3,955 to 4,941)

**INCREASE OF BIDDING LIMITS:** Shall Section 815, Bidding Process, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to increase the bidding limits for the purchase of goods or services (excluding personal or professional services) from Ten Thousand (\$10,000) Dollars to Twenty Thousand (\$20,000) Dollars and the purchase of personal or professional services (excluding those related to public debt offerings or other borrowing) to Twenty Thousand (\$20,000) Dollars? (Approved May 20, 1997 - 4,340 to 3,708)

**EMERGENCY PURCHASES:** Shall Section 815, Bidding Process, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to allow for Emergency Purchases of Goods, Equipment or Services? An emergency purchase shall mean a purchase necessary for the public safety or to avoid a significant financial loss to the City. (Approved May 20, 1997 - 4,969 to 3,231)

**LOCAL PREFERENCE:** Shall Section 815, Bidding Process, of the Home Rule Charter, be amended to include a five (5%) percent local resident preference for resident businesses or products either manufactured in Allentown or manufactured by entities headquartered in Allentown, but the preference is not to exceed \$2,500 in awarding bids? A Resident Business means one which maintains its principal place of business in the City of Allentown or maintains an office which employs at least five (5) employees in the City of Allentown. (Approved November 4, 1997 - 7,957 to 3,371)

**VOTES REQUIRED BY COUNCIL TO INCREASE TAXES AND FEES:** Shall Section 807, D, Revenue, be amended to require five out of seven (rather than a majority plus two as in the original charter) Councilpersons to increase taxes and fees? (Approved, May 18, 1999 - 4,466 to 2,436)

**COUNCIL AND CONTROLLER SOLICITOR:** Shall Section 701 be amended so that City Council and the City Controller shall each have the power to independently obtain a specific legal opinion provided there is an appropriation

from City Council, instead of receiving such legal services from the City Solicitor? (Defeated, November 2, 1999- 4,092 to 4,339)

**COUNCIL MEETINGS:** Shall Section 212 (B) be amended to allow City Council to cancel one of its required two meetings per month in Council determines that the meeting is not necessary due to a lack of business? (Passed November 6, 2001- 6,864 to 3,429)

**MAYOR'S BUDGET VETO:** Shall Section 221 be amended so that the Mayor has five days rather than ten days to approve, veto or take no action on the budget or levy ordinances. (Passed November 6, 2001- 6,810 to 3,437)

**INITIATIVE/REFERENDUM CLARIFICATION:** Shall Article X be amended to clarify the initiative and referendum process, to prevent the filing of a petition for referendum on an ordinance from suspending the effect of an ordinance before voters approve the referendum, and to change the time limit as to how long City Council must wait before it repeals or substantively modifies an ordinance it adopted pursuant to initiative? (Passed November 6, 2001- 5,678 to 3,683)

**COUNCIL OPENING BUDGET:** Shall Section 806 be deleted in it's entirety so that City Council may not revise a budget and reduce tax levies in the year following an election? (Passed November 6, 2001- 5,152 to 4,652)

**ADVERTISING REQUIREMENTS:** Shall Section 805 and 812 be amended to delete the advertising requirements, in effect, allowing the City to follow only state law requirements? (Passed November 6, 2001- 5,626 to 4,185)

**SOLICITOR'S QUALIFICATION:** Shall Section 309(A) and 606 be amended to provide that the City Solicitor shall be either a resident or taxpayer of the City of Allentown prior to his or her appointment. (Passed November 5, 2002, 8,155- to 7,703)

**TAX AND FEE AUTHORITY OF CITY COUNCIL:** Shall sub-sections A and B of Section 807 of the Home Rule Charter be

deleted to remove the restriction against Council establishing a new tax and allow Council to raise rates of the deed transfer, earned income, business privilege, occupational privilege, amusement devices and resident taxes above their respective 1996 levels? (Failed November 5, 2002; 2,510 to 13,559)

**VOTES ON FEES AND TAXES:** Shall Sections 807(D) be amended to provide that Council may increase any tax or fee by a vote of four rather than five? (Failed November 5, 2002; 1,644 to 14,685)

BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_

AN ORDINANCE

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF READING, BERKS COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA BY REMOVING THE FEE ASSESSED FOR THE INSTALLATION OF HANDICAP PARKING SIGNS FROM THE CITY OF READING FEE SCHEDULE.**

**THE CITY OF READING HEREBY ORDAINS AS FOLLOWS:**

**SECTION 1.** Eliminating the fee assessed for the installation of Handicap Parking signs from the City of Reading Fee Schedule.

**SECTION 2.** This ordinance shall be effective ten (10) days after its adoption and approval by the Mayor, or repassage by City Council over the Mayor's veto, in accordance with Section 219 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter, or as set forth in Section 221 of the City of Reading Home Rule Charter.

Enacted \_\_\_\_\_, 2006

\_\_\_\_\_  
President of Council

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

**(Councilwoman Goodman-Hinnershitz)**

Submitted to Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Received by the Mayor's Office: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Vetoed by Mayor: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**(Exhibit A)**

**7. Permits.**

**Type Proposed Fee**

Sidewalk Occupancy \$20

Sidewalk Repair/Opening 10

Pole Permit 30

Driveway Permit

Residential 100

Commercial 200

Building Line Surveys 2/FT

Dumpster 250

Handicap Parking ~~70~~-0

Renewal Fee ~~5~~-0

**Type Proposed Fee**

Onlot Sewage Suitability

Reading and Recording Two Deep Probes \$250

Additional Soil Probes 50

Observation to Six Hole Percolation 250

Permit Processing 100

Re-application Fee 50

Onlot Sewage Planning Module 50/Lot

Sanitary Sewer Planning Module \$500